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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/697,004	10/31/2003	Hirohisa Tashiro	SHO-0024	8250

23353 7590 05/10/2006

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EXAMINER

HSU, RYAN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3714

DATE MAILED: 05/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/697,004

Applicant(s)

TASHIRO ET AL.

Examiner

Ryan Hsu

Art Unit

3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 June 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 June 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/18/04; 11/3/04; 5/6/05
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Loose et al. (US 6,517,433 B2).

Regarding claim 1, Loose et al. disclose a gaming machine comprising: a game result display means for displaying a game result thereon and a beneficial state generating means for generating a beneficial state for a player when a predetermined game result is displayed on the game result display means (*see 'winning state' of col. 3: ln 40-col. 4: ln 18*). Additionally, Loose et al. disclose that the game result display means includes first display means and second display means arranged at a more front side than a display area of the first display means when seen from a front side of the gaming machine (*see Fig. 1 and Figs. 2(a-b) and the related description thereof*). Furthermore, Loose et al. disclose that the first display means includes a plurality of symbol display parts capable of variable displaying one or more of the symbols and conducting stop display information and the second display means has symbol display areas through which the symbols displayed on the first display means are transmittably displayed and

window frame display areas are formed around the symbol display areas in the second display means (*see col. 5: ln 30-42*).

Regarding claim 2, Loose et al. disclose a gaming machine wherein the display mode of the window frame display area is changed (*see col. 3: ln 41-55, col. 4: ln 60-col. 5: ln 22*).

Regarding claim 3, Loose et al. disclose a gaming machine wherein a light transmittance rate of the symbol display area in the second display means is changed when the display mode of the window frame display area is changed (*see reels [12a] and direct image and virtual image [14a-b] of Fig. 2(a-b) and the related description thereof*).

Regarding claim 4, Loose et al. disclose a gaming machine wherein the display mode of the window frame display area is changed substantially at the same time that the stop display of the symbol is conducted (*see Figs 10(a-c) and the related description thereof*).

Regarding claim 5, Loose et al. disclose a gaming machine comprising an internal winning combination determination means for determining an internal winning combination (*see col. 5: ln 50-col. 6: ln 16*). Additionally, Loose et al. disclose a gaming machine wherein the display mode of the window frame display area is changed when the internal winning combination determination means determines a predetermined combination as the internal winning combination (*see Figs. 8(a-c), 10(a-c) and the related description thereof*).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Motegi et al. (US 6,817,946 B2) – Virtual Image and Real Image Superimposed Display Device, Image Display Control Method and Image Display Control Program.

Weiss (US 6,164,645) –Gaming Machine.

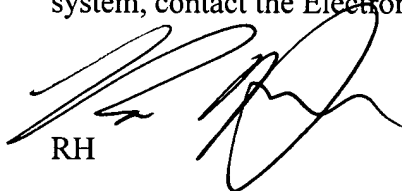
Sakamoto (US 6,315,663 B1) – Game Machine and Method with Shifting Reels in Two Directions.

Uchiyama (US 6,638,165 B2) – Virtual Image/Real Image Superimposing and Displaying Apparatus and Slot Machine.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be direct to Ryan Hsu whose telephone number is (571)-272-7148. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

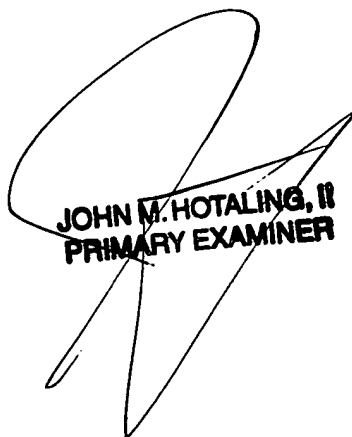
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert P Olszewski can be reached at (571)-272-6788.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 1-866-217-9197 (toll-free).



RH

May 7, 2006



JOHN M. HOTALING, II
PRIMARY EXAMINER